

and students alike. She inspires her students to achieve academically and contribute to the community.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Palombi for her dedication and commitment to the education of America's future. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must have professors like Peggy Shadduck Palombi in our institutions of higher learning, in our communities, and in our lives. She is Kentucky at its finest.●

RECOGNIZING OF THE SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the members of the Society of Physics Students, SPS, in the Department of Physics at the University of Louisville. The SPS will be celebrating 2005 as the World Year of Physics. The celebration will coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the publication of Albert Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity, Quantization of the Electromagnetic Field, and the Energy-Mass Relationship.

The University of Louisville chapter has been recognized for achievement by numerous national physics organizations. Their recent accomplishments include the Blake Lilly Prize for Outreach, a national SPS designation as Outstanding Chapter, along with the Marsh White Award for Education and Outreach from the Sigma Pi Sigma National Physics Honor Society. In light of these efforts, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the Society of Physics Students at the University of Louisville for their celebration of 2005 as the World Year of Physics.●

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SESQUICENTENNIAL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Michigan State University as they continue their 150th anniversary celebration. Throughout its history, Michigan State has made a tremendous contribution to the State of Michigan and to our Nation as a whole.

Michigan State University, or the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan as it was originally known, was created in 1855 by an act of the Michigan Legislature authorizing the creation of a school of higher education for agriculture. Two years later, Michigan State welcomed its first class of 63 students.

Nearly 100 years ago, President Teddy Roosevelt visited Michigan State and delivered a commencement speech to more than 20,000 students, faculty, and family of the graduates. In his speech, he stated "The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this college is an event of national significance, for Michigan was the first State in the Union to found this, the first agricultural college in America."

While Michigan State was the first agricultural college in the United States, the curriculum studied by its students went far beyond agriculture and included classes in English, philosophy, and economics. This multifaceted approach to higher education produced well-rounded graduates and became the foundation of the educational philosophy later employed by the land grant colleges created by Congress in 1862. In addition, this philosophy marked an important change in the way higher education was perceived around the country. No longer was a college degree available only to society's elite, but also to the less privileged who made use of the practical education they received to improve their own standard of living as well as that of their family, community, and our Nation as a whole. The significance of this shift in thinking cannot be overstated and remains as important today as it was in the mid-1800s.

Of course, President Roosevelt's commencement address was only one of many significant events in the history of Michigan State University. The University welcomed its first female students in 1870 and presented 22 degrees to women by 1895. Michigan State's color barrier was broken in the early 1900s when it awarded its first degrees to an African-American man, William Thompson, in 1904 and an African-American woman, Myrtle Craig, in 1907.

Among the nearly 400,000 Michigan State Alumni worldwide are 16 Rhodes Scholars, a Pulitzer Prize winner, a Grammy award winner, two former Michigan Governors, a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of Energy, and the first women to represent the State of Michigan in the U.S. Senate, my colleague and friend, Debbie STABENOW. Michigan State now offers more than 200 programs of study and serves almost 45,000 current students from all 50 States and more than 120 foreign countries.

Among many other things, researchers at Michigan State University are credited with the development of leading cancer fighting drugs and the process of milk homogenization. Michigan State is currently home to the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, the leading rare isotope research facility in the country. The nuclear science research taking place at this facility is improving our knowledge of the elements that make up the world around us and could provide new medical breakthroughs, including new tools for the treatment of cancer. This research, primarily funded by the National Science Foundation and the university, has made Michigan State's nuclear physics doctoral program one of the most prestigious in the Nation.

I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Michigan State University on 150 years of contributions to Michigan and the Nation as a whole. I would also like to wish Michigan State University, its students, faculty, alum-

ni, and supporters good luck and continued success as they work to make the next 150 years as productive and full of accomplishment as previous 150 have been.●

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary, of my alma mater, Michigan State University, MSU.

Located on the banks of the Red Cedar River, Michigan State University was the first agricultural college in the Nation and the prototype for land-grant institutions later established under the Morrill Act of 1862. In fact, in the mid 1950s, the U.S. Postal Service honored Michigan State University with a postage stamp commemorating it as the original land-grant university.

The land-grant philosophy is rooted in the principle to extend the values of education to all who seek it, and the Morrill Act grew out of a movement to bring benefits of education to rural areas. The original tract of land in 1855 for my nascent college, then known as the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan, consisted of 677 acres. Additional lands were purchased, and presently, the combined size of Michigan State lands—from its central campus to its research stations around the state—totals close to 20,000 acres across Michigan. As the campus has grown, so has Michigan State's imprint on the world through its commitment to its students and its offering of a quality, public higher education to all.

Academically, MSU students and colleges are highly regarded. The university has had more Rhodes Scholars than any other Big Ten Conference university in the past generation. U.S. News & World Report ranks 10 of MSU's graduate departments in the Top 10 in their field nationally. On an international note, the University's Study Abroad program is the largest of any public university in the Nation, offering more than 190 programs in more than 60 countries on all continents, including Antarctica. Furthermore, MSU is proud to have the highest percentage of in-state students among Michigan universities, with many of those who receive a bachelor's degree from MSU staying and working in the state.

The University has a notable and strong athletic history. In its 108-year football history, Michigan State has won six NCAA national football championships, while last year, both its men's and women's basketball teams made it to their respective and coveted Final Four tournaments. Sparty the Spartan is Michigan State University's fearless and loveable mascot, a figure known throughout the State of Michigan and recognized across the Nation as well. Sparty is the heart of Michigan State, forever supporting its teams, bringing smiles to young and old and continually uplifting all who meet him.

The State of Michigan has always been the "first beneficiary" of MSU's